**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-6. (canceled).

Claim 7. (previously presented): A method for testing subscriber access lines together with an associated subscriber line circuit and a connected subscriber terminal of a digital telecommunications system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a digital signal processor on at least one of a subscriber-line-specific basis and a small group of subscriber line circuits;

providing, via the digital signal processor, subscriber-line functions related to telecommunications traffic;

carrying out, via the digital signal processor, a plurality of different test functions to obtain test result data in order to identify malfunctions substantially all the time, automatically and successively;

gathering the test result data at a central point while observing specific selection criteria; and

transmitting, in specific requirement situations, the test result data to specific locations in a subscriber access area with which the subscriber access lines are associated.

Claim 8. (previously presented): A method for testing subscriber access lines as claimed in claim 7, the method further comprising the step of:

transmitting the test result data to a location at which defect-rectification measures are currently being carried out, provided they relate to a geographical area of interest at this point.

Claim 9. (previously presented): A method for testing subscriber access lines as claimed in claim 7, wherein the transmission of the test result data is limited to items which originated close in time to a time at which the defect-rectification measures were carried out.

Claim 10. (previously presented): A method for testing subscriber access lines as claimed in claim 7, wherein, if malfunctions are identified, fault signaling relating to an

occurrence of a telecommunications connection is supplied to relevant telecommunications subscribers.

Claim 11. (previously presented): A method for testing subscriber access lines as claimed in claim 10, wherein the fault signaling occurs during occurrence of a dialing tone in the case of an outgoing telecommunications connection.

Claim 12. (previously presented): A method for testing subscriber access lines as claimed in claim 10, wherein, in the case of an incoming telecommunications connection, the fault signaling is an announcement in which an institution emitting the fault message is included, a conference connection being set up for the announcement.